

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

ST Facilities to Deori community of Arunachal Pradesh

693. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend Scheduled Tribe facilities to Deori community living in the State of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government of Arunachal Pradesh has ever approached the Centre or submitted any proposal for inclusion of the Deori community living in Arunachal Pradesh as a Scheduled Tribe of the State; and

(c) the details of such proposal and the stand of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Malnutrition among children aged less than five years

694. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN. Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50 per cent of the new born children and children less than five years old suffer from malnutrition; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) While precise data on low birth weight of the new borns in the country is not available, 23 per cent newborns have low birth weight as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2. Moreover, 46 per cent children under 3 years of age are underweight as per the National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-06).

(b) Malnutrition is multi-sectoral and inter-generational in nature. The Government is seized of the problem and is implementing a number of schemes which, directly or indirectly, have a bearing on the nutritional status of children. Some of these are as under:

- (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (Ministry of Women and Child Development);
- (ii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant and nursing mothers (Ministry of Women and Child Development);
- (iii) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women and Child Development);
- (iv) National Rural Health Mission (RCH-II) including Iron and Folic Acid and Vitamin A Supplementation Programmes (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);
- (v) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);
- (vi) Targetted Public Distribution System (Department of Food and Public Distribution);
- (vii) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme/Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign; National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).

Crimes against children

†695. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps in connection with prevention of crimes against children such as exploitation of children which includes physical and economic exploitation, child trafficking, domestic violence and corporal punishment at school etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The issues relating to crimes and violence against children are being addressed through several provision which include Constitutional Provisions, Legislations, Policies, Plan of Action and various schemes and programmes for children. Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits trafficking of human

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.